

Remarks

The Final Office Action dated January 19, 2010 has been carefully considered. Claims 21, 31-32, 37, 39-42, 44-45, and 48-49 have been amended and claims 22 and 47 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In Paragraph 8 of the Office Action, claim 41 is objected to over the phrase, "...ether carboxylic acids is present..." Claim 41 has been amended as suggested in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection set forth in Paragraph 8 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

In Paragraph 9 of the Office Action, claims 31, 32, 37, 39, 40, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. These claims have been amended to overcome the comments made in paragraph 9.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102 and/or 35 USC § 103

In Paragraph 10 of the Office Action, claims 21, 22, 31-37 and 39-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,582,138 (Balzer hereinafter). Claim 21 has been amended to include claims 22 and 47 to make it allowable as set forth in paragraph 12 of the Office Action. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21, 22, 31-37 and 39-46 under 35 U.S.C.

102(a) and 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balzer is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

In Paragraph 11 of the Office Action, claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balzer in view of US Patent 5,232,910 (Mueller '910 hereinafter) (Cited by Applicant). For the reasons set forth above, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 38 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balzer in view of Mueller is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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